


# CLIMATE ACTION PLAN



King County

# King County Strategic Climate Action Plan (2015)

Priority Actions with Forest Management Implications

Protect Open Space

- develop a plan to protect remaining high-priority farm, forest and open space lands
- By 2045, protect priority lands

Re-tree King County

- By 2020, plant a minimum of 1 million trees (above background, business as usual rate)
- By 2020, develop 30-year plan to maximize urban and rural tree cover

Streamline Support for Forests

- Develop “one-stop shop” for forestry

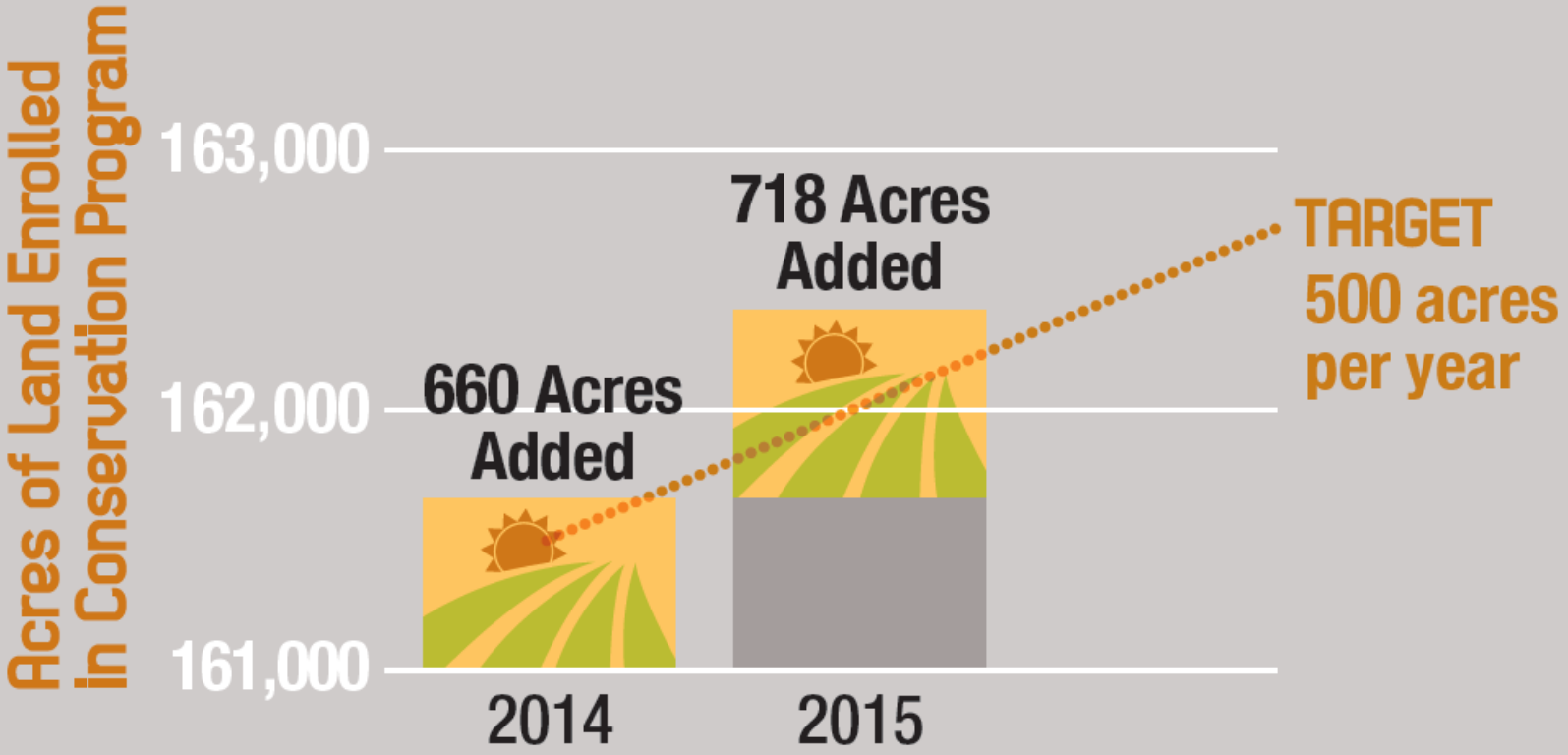
**Performance Goal: King County will protect and support healthy, productive farms and privately-owned forests that maximize biological carbon storage, promote public health, and are resilient to changing climate conditions.**

**Measure 1: privately-owned rural acreage that have stewardship plans or are enrolled in Open Space and Forestland designated CUT incentive programs.**

**Measure 2: privately-owned forest lands permanently conserved through easements that remove development rights.**

## 1 Land with Stewardship Plan or Enrolled in a Conservation Program

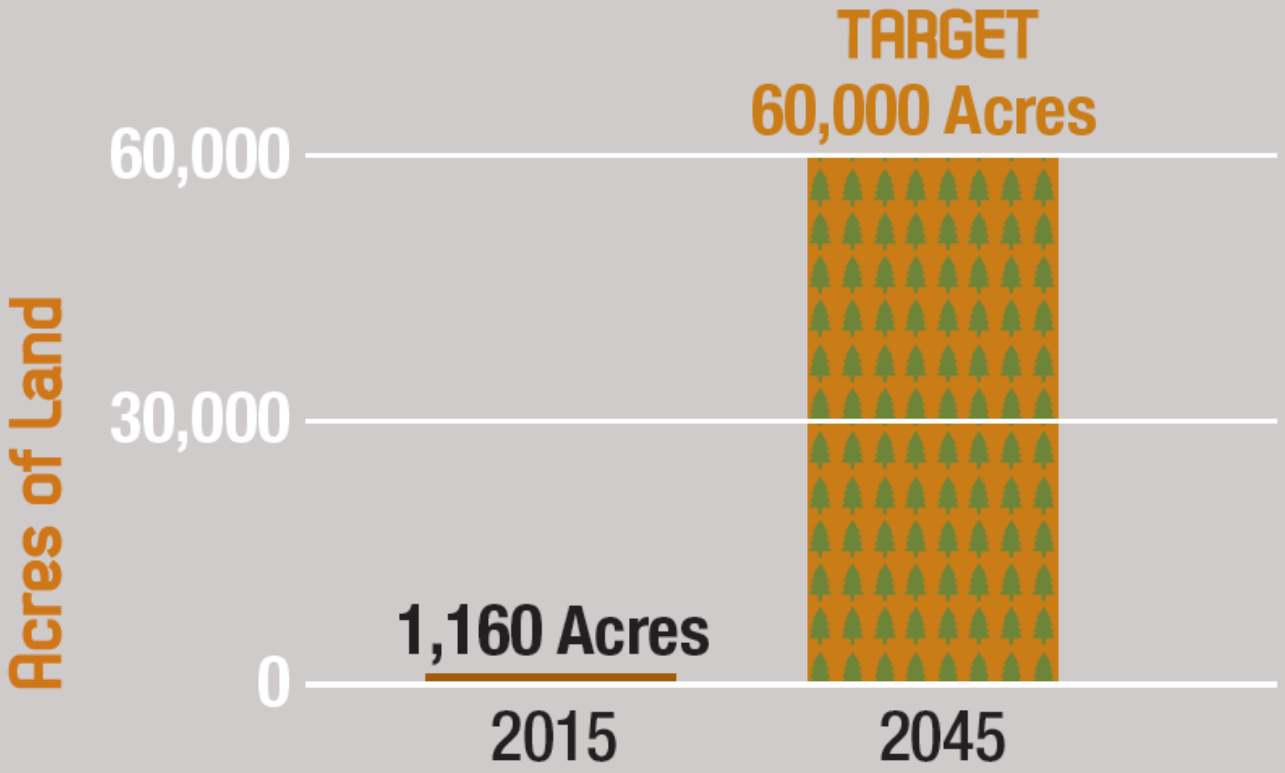
1 500 additional acres per year




*King County exceeded this target in 2015 and more than 162,000 acres (250+ square miles) of private land are now enrolled in a conservation program.*

## 2 Forest, Agriculture and Open Space Preservation

2 Permanently protect all remaining high-priority lands within 30 years




*To protect an average of 2,000 acres per year needed to meet the long-term target to permanently protect 60,000 acres over 30 years of high priority land, new funding sources and partnerships are being developed.*

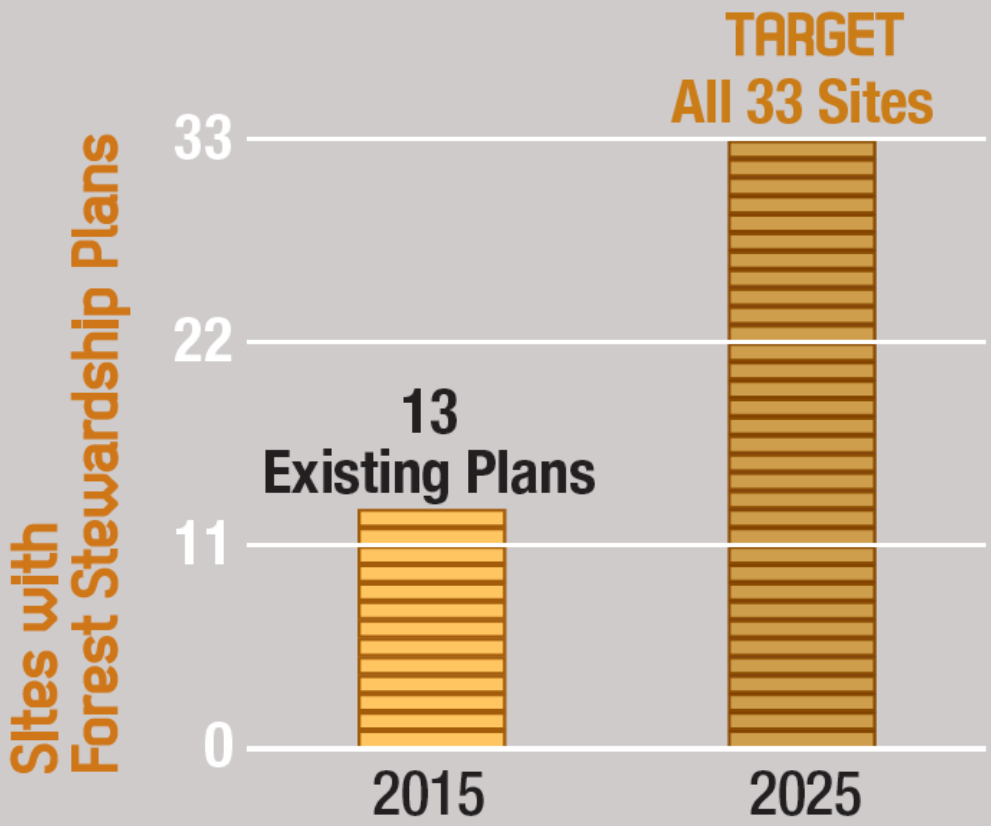
**Performance Goal: King County will manage and restore its parks and other natural lands in ways that maximize biological carbon storage and increase resilience to changing climate conditions.**

**Measure 1: percentage of forested sites larger than 200 acres managed by the Parks Division that have Forest Stewardship Plans.**

**Measure 2: Number of native trees planted by King County and public and private partners.**

## 1 Forest Stewardship Plans on Forested Sites over 200 Acres Managed by the Parks Division

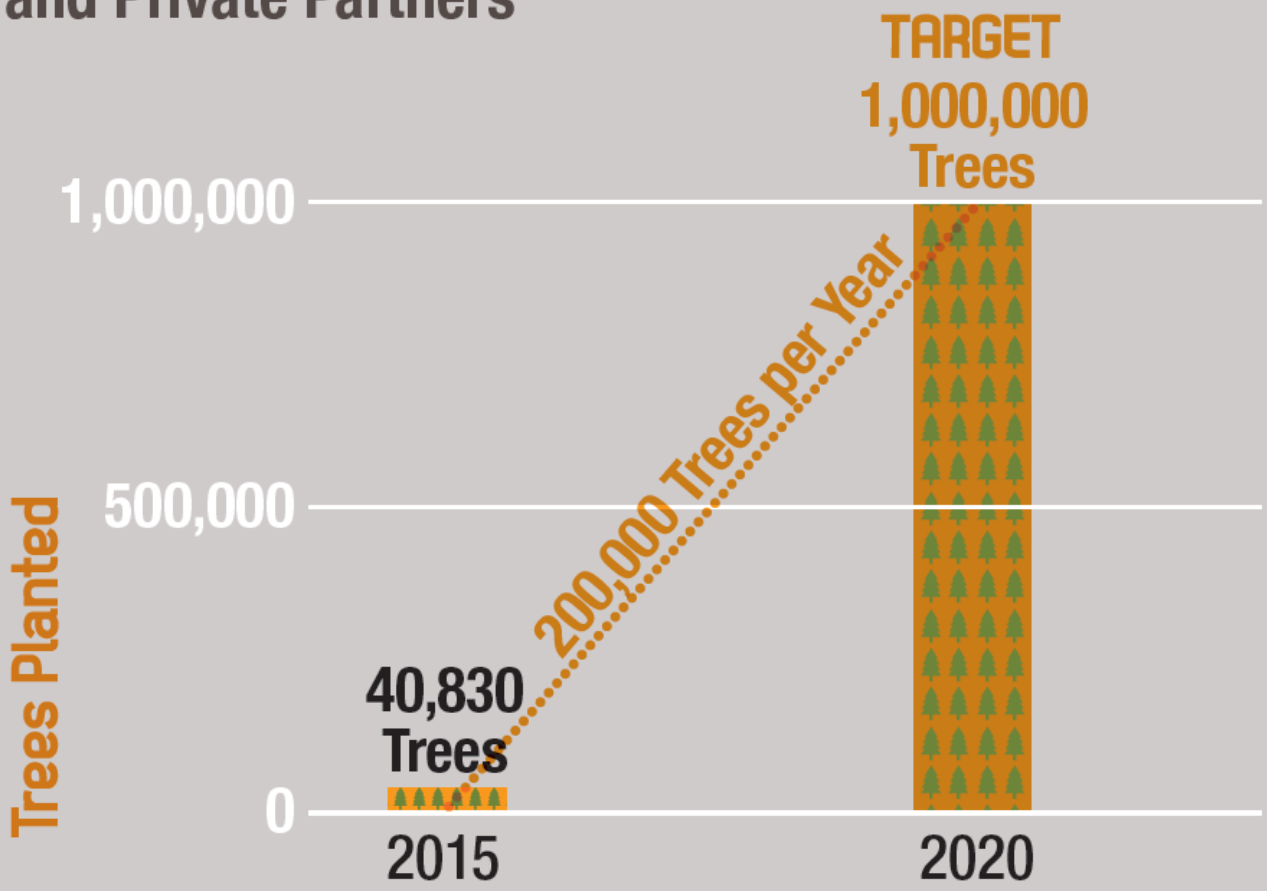
1 100% by 2025




*By 2025, King County needs to complete an average of two Forest Stewardship Plans per year while also implementing and updating plans already developed.*

## 2 Number of Native Trees Planted by King County and Public and Private Partners

2 Plant 1 million native trees between 2015 and 2020




*The total trees planted in 2015 reflect only trees planted by King County government. In future reporting, totals will also include trees planted by partners.*


King County Forest Carbon Project

# King County Forest Carbon Project

**Supportive Policy and Management Documents**

2013 KC Parks Forest Assessment

- 4,200 acres of hardwood-dominated stands suitable for restoration to mixed conifer

SCAP 2015

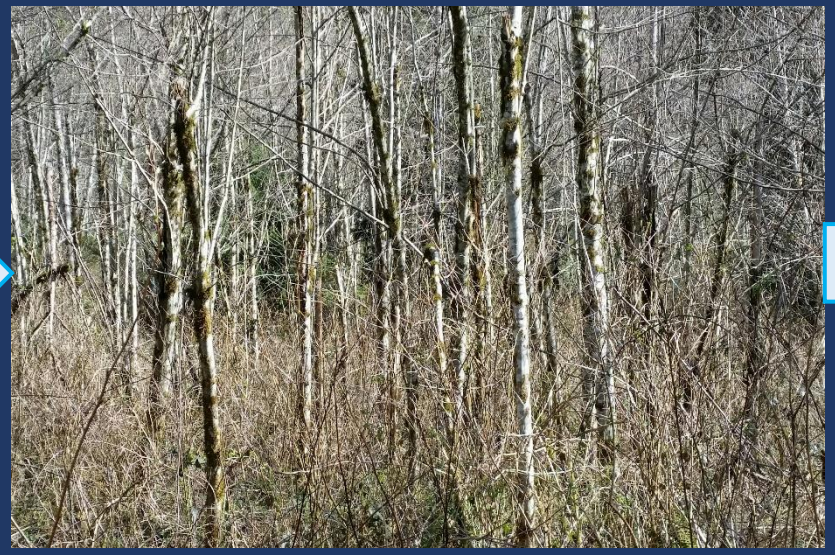
- Develop and implement Forest Stewardship Plans on all tracts > 200 acres by 2025
- DNRP-wide carbon neutrality by 2017; Wastewater and Solid Waste independently by 2025
- Plant 1 million trees between 2015 and 2020

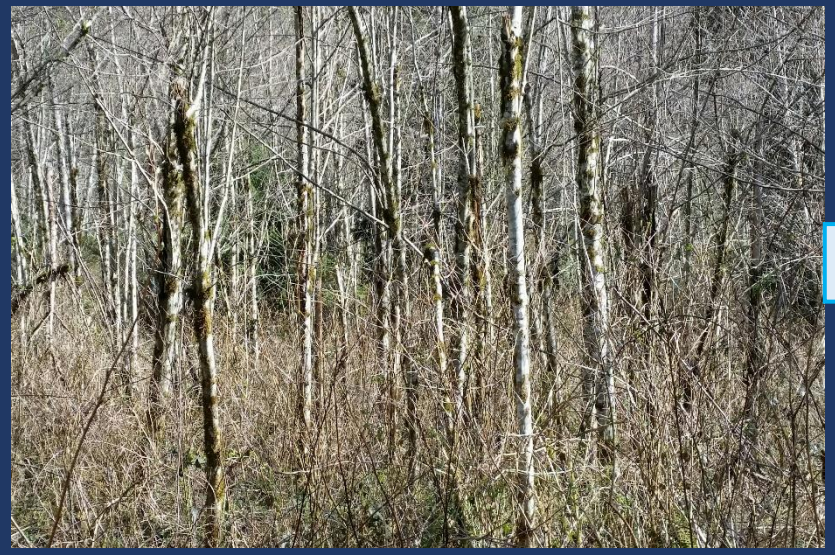
2016 Comprehensive Plan

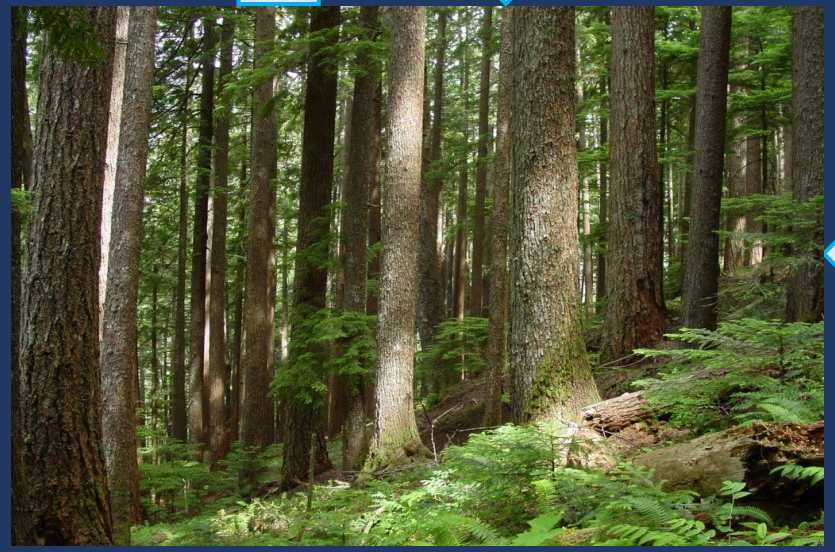
- Protect, preserve and enhance natural resources
- Adoption of entrepreneurial approach to managing open space system

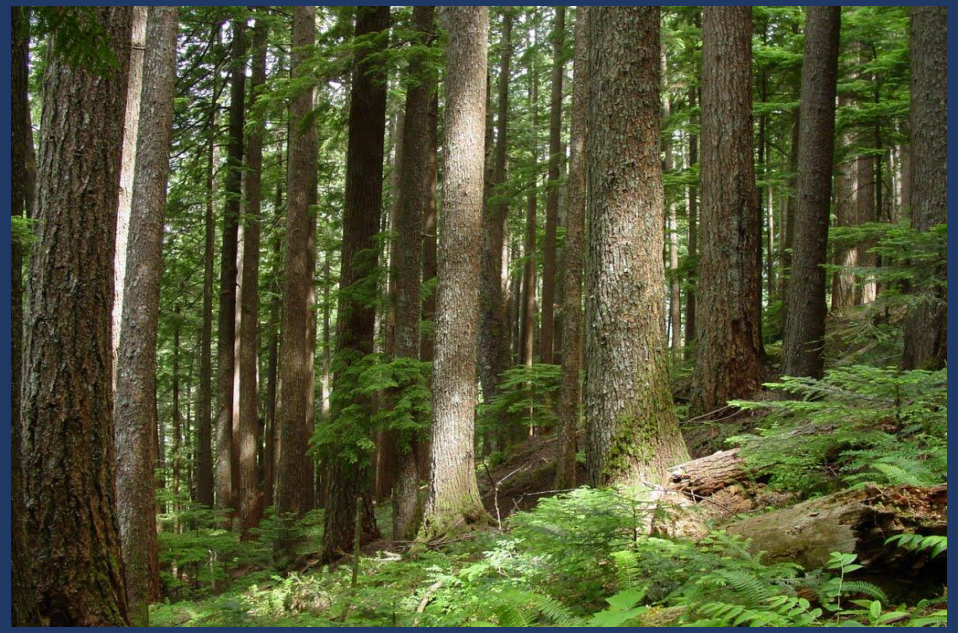
2016 KC Open Space Plan

- KC forest lands should be used as demonstration areas
- Management strategies should enhance carbon sequestration benefits









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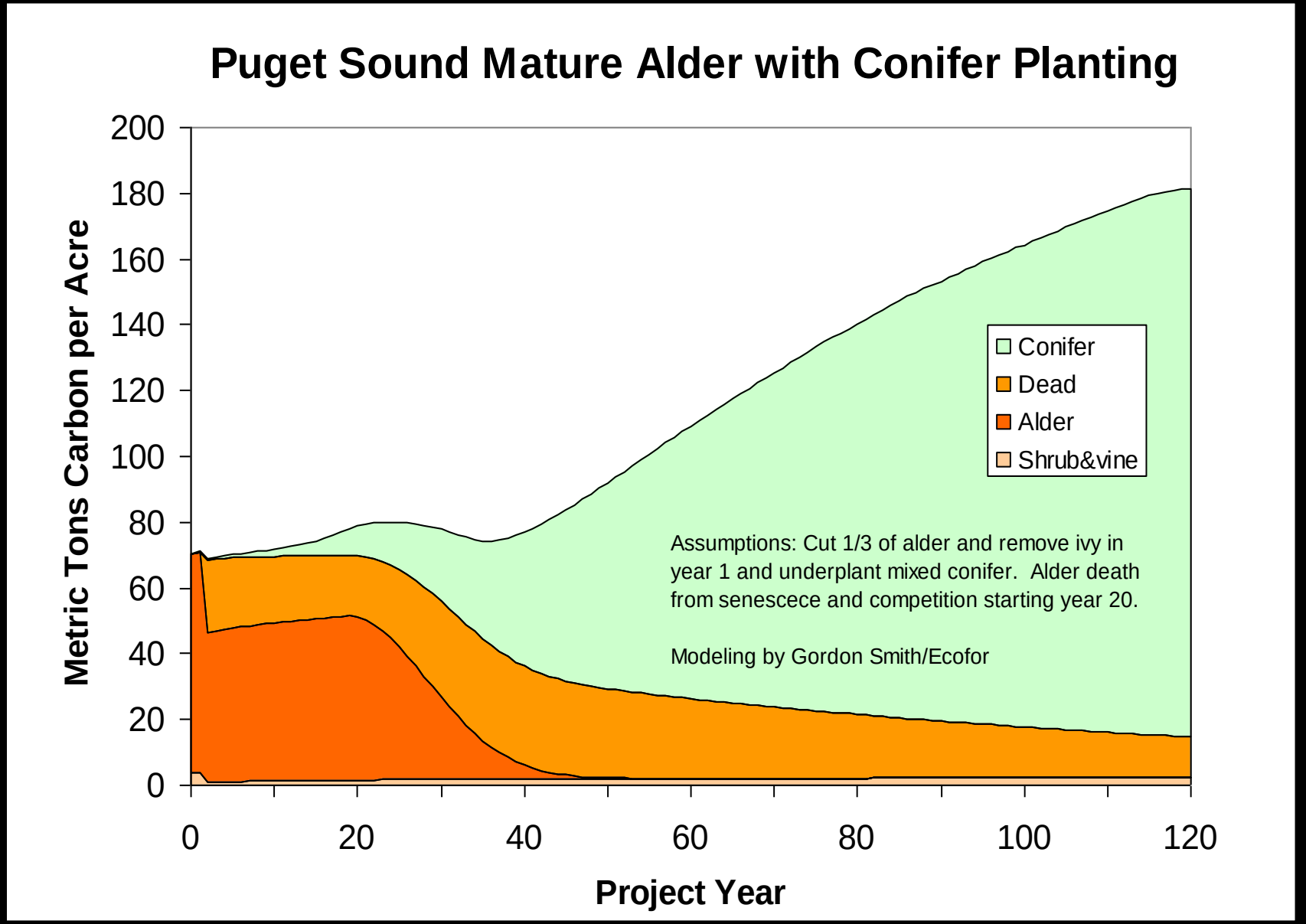


Carbon effects of thinning mature alder and planting conifer. Adapted from Gordon Smith (2005), Opportunities for King County, WA to Create and Market Greenhouse Gas Emission Offsets Generated by Sequestering Carbon. ($CO_2e$ = mt C x 3.67)

# King County Forest Carbon Project: Project Criteria

- Demonstrate that offsets are additional to “business as usual”
- Confirm that proposed activities exceed common practice and are not mandated
- Guarantee that offsets are long-lasting (min. 100 years)
- Establish a protocol for verification of offsets
- Ensure that the project does not have unintended, negative social, economic or environmental outcomes.
- Document that the project has benefits beyond climate change mitigation

# King County Forest Carbon Project: Project Design Document

- Focal stand types (alder-dominated stands and conifer plantation?)
- Specific project area
- Proposed forest management practices and how they meet Climate Action Reserve (CAR) forest project protocol v 3.3
- Baseline carbon stock and model for “without project” carbon projections
- Actual carbon stock quantification methodology (includes harvest tracking and end use)
- Accounting for additionality, leakage and permanence
- Mitigation for reversal risk
- Process for verifying offsets

| | Current ($mt CO_2e$) | Year 40 ($mt CO_2e$) | Change ($mt CO_2e$) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Carbon Stocks No Action | 714,000 | 357,000 | -357,000 |
| Carbon Stocks With Management | 714,000 | 1,848,000 | 1,134,000 |
| Change with vs. without | | 1,491,000 | 1,491,000 |

| Project Component | Specific Tasks | Due Date |
|---|---|---|
| Targeted stand cover class | Determine focus of program<br>Determine desired future conditions | 15 Mar 2016<br>30 Mar 2016 |
| Project areas | Use FLAT to identify potential project areas<br>Develop criteria for assessing area suitability<br>Select final list of project areas | 30 Mar 2016<br>30 Mar 2016<br>15 May 2016 |
| Additionality, leakage and permanence | Research and document project attributes | 30 Jun 2016 |
| Offset reversal risk and mitigation | Research and document project attributes<br>Propose mitigation strategies | 30 Jun 2016<br>30 Jun 2016 |
| Offset verification | Develop protocol for regular field inventory<br>Review and approve scientific rigor of protocol | 30 Jun 2016<br>31 Jul 2016 |
| Baseline carbon stock | Initial field inventory of tree/snag carbon stock | 15 Aug 2016 |
| Management practices | Stand management plans | 31 Aug 2016 |
| PDD assembly and peer review | Model Carbon Offsets<br>Prepare draft of PDD<br>Circulate for internal and external review<br>Prepare final PDD with associated cost estimates | 30 Sept 2016<br>30 Oct 2016<br>30 Nov 2016<br>15 Dec 2016 |
| Launch project | Review and approve PDD | 31 Dec 2016 |